

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT <b>INVERNESS</b>		5 PARISH <b>MOY &amp; DALAROSSIE</b>		1 SITE CODE H N H 7 2 S E 0 0 1 A	
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS		2 NGR N H 7 6 7 1 2 4 2 0 CE	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH 72 SE 2		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURES		3 QUAL	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS 1790 CHURCH ON EARLIER (?13thC) SITE		17 CONDITION RUINED		6 SITE NAME DALAROSSIE CHURCH	
20 LAND USE CEMETERY		21 GEOLOGY		10 GENERIC TYPE CHURCH + GRAVEYARD	
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION		14 PERIOD/DATE LM=MO/1790 A.D.	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF RIVER TERRACE		15 DATING METHOD DOC	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)		26 ASPECT ENE		18 SHAPE	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)		27 ALTITUDE 320-330mOD		19 THREAT AND DATE	
30 GROUND PLAN NO.		31 GROUND PHOTO NO.		32 SLIDES NO.	
32 SLIDES NO.		33 HR. AP. NO. 91/01/1/21, 25		34 NMR. AP. NO.	
34 NMR. AP. NO.		35 OTHER AP. NO. : SOURCE		36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY		38 SAMPLES		39 PALYNOLOGY	
39 PALYNOLOGY		40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.		41 SMALL FINDS	
41 SMALL FINDS		42 MUSEUM/LOCATION		43 OTHER	
43 OTHER		44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER		45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER		46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT		47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT		48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS		49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS		50 RECORDER: DATE MWC: 16.9.1986		51 CHECK: DATE GS: 30.9.1986	

52 TEXT

" NH 7669 2419. Church " (1)

" Dalarossie Church does not date back beyond 1790, but the site is very old (2) and was confirmed by Bishop Andrew to the Church of the Holy Trinity in Elgin in the 13th century.(3) It contains an old stone font (see HND 72 SE 001B)(2)"

" No further information." (OSFI:NKB:8.11.1966)

" NH 7671 2420. Dalarossie Church " (5)

" See continuation card for text (2)(4) "

## DALAROSSIE CHURCH AND CHURCH-YARD.

Dalarossie was at one time a separate parish, but was united to Moy at a time beyond record. The church of Dalarossie is in the centre of the district, while that of Moy is quite on an out-skirt of the united parishes. The name Dalarossie means the Dale of Fergus. The correct spelling is *Dail-Fhearghuis*. It is a very old site, although the present building does not date back beyond 1790. There are many old traditions and legends connected with Dalarossie Church. The New Statistical Account says the Church-yard of Dalarossie "is remarkable as not having a stone the size of an egg to the depth of seven feet, although surrounded by stony soil. The tradition is, that it was sifted by the Druids." Whether consecrated by the Druids, or at a more recent time, the old people looked upon this church-yard as sacred in no ordinary degree. And it is no wonder that the people of the district desired to be buried in it—for any one that was laid within its walls was counted safe from the father of lies.

There is an old stone font lying at the end of the church. It is 20 inches in diameter inside at the mouth, and about 10 inches deep. It is cut out of a rough block of gneiss. Sometime ago, it is said, an old man, who had a habit of poking his stick into everything, poked it through the bottom of this font. Before then people used to wash their hands in the rain water which collected in the stone to cure or prevent warts. There is an old hour glass in the church (as there is also in the Moy church), which was used in keeping the minister up to time in his sermon. Near the south door of the church, on the outside of the wall, there is a coat of arms as a *memento mori* of Lieutenant John Mackintosh, a connection of the Kyllachy family, who acted as factor for Kyllachy, and who died in 1751. The inscription is as follows:—"This stone is placed here by James Mackintosh, eldest son of Lieutenant John Mackintosh of Midcoul, and his spouse, Euphie Mackintosh, and their children. Memento Mori, 1751."

## THE WITCH OF LAGGAN.

In connection with the Dalarossie Churchyard there is a weird legend of a witch of Laggan, which was told at the excursion by Mr W. Macqueen, a native of the Strath. When the witch died, she made for Dalarossie Churchyard, knowing that she would be out of reach of the Evil One; but she was caught by the hounds and carried off at the Churchyard gate.

## IV. THE PRIEST'S STONE AT DALAROSSIE CHURCHYARD.

On the north side of the old burying-ground round the church of Dalarossie, in Upper Strathdearn, which is watered by the Findhorn, some five or six miles above Findhorn Bridge, over which runs the great road between Inverness and Perth, there exists a curious stone, known as *Clach-an-t-shagairt*, or the Priest's Stone. It is a rounded block of grey gneiss, 27 inches broad and 16 inches thick, shown on fig. 84 with sections, drawn by Mr. Mackay of the Public School near it. It contains a basin 21 inches in diameter, quite circular except on the upper right side, where it extends  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches beyond the true circle, 11 inches deep, and tapering gradually to 2 inches at the bottom. The stone itself is circular, except on one side, where it forms a straight line of  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The breadth of the ring round the basin is 6 inches on the average, where it narrows to less than half this

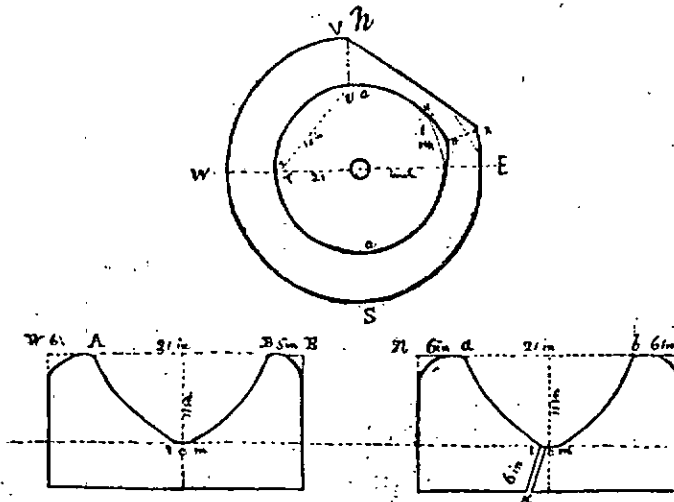


Fig. 84. "The Priest's Stone," Dalarossie. (Plan and Sections.)

width. It is said to have been used for baptismal purposes like the last. About twenty years ago, it was bored through the bottom by a mason called M'Gregor, for what purpose it is impossible now to conjecture. The bore thus made is 6 inches long and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide.

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# ARTEFACTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4 DISTRICT INVERNESS		5 PARISH MOY & DALAROSSIE		1 SITE CODE H N H 2 S E O O 1 B													
6 CONCORDANCE OS NH72SE 1 NMR		9 MUSEUM/LOCATION OF FIND(S) DALAROSSIE CHURCH DALAROSSIE		10 ACCESSION NO.		8 SITE NAME D A L A R O S S I E / C H U R C H						7 GENERIC TYPE FONT, STONE					
13 FIND CIRCUMSTANCES				14 CONDITION				11 PERIOD/DATE LM				12 DATING METHOD TYP					
17 LAND USE CEMETERY				18 GEOLOGY				15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE				16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.					
19 SOILS				20 VEGETATION				23 ASPECT ENE				24 ALTITUDE 320=380m OD					
21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				22 RELIEF RIVER TERRACE				25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS									
26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)																	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1903: 6" MAP																	
2. JOLLY, W.: 1882: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL16: pp380-1																	
3. ROMILLY ALLEN, J.: 1882-2: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT.: VOL16: p122																	
4. FRASER, J.: 1888-95: TRANS. INVERNESS SCI. SOC. & FIELD CLUB: VOL4: p64																	
27 GROUND PLAN NO.								28 GROUND PHOTO NO.									
29 SLIDES NO.								30 HR. AP. NO.									
31 NMR. AP. NO.								32 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE									
33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION																	
34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY								35 SAMPLES									
36 PALYNOLOGY								37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.									
38 OTHER																	
39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER												40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER					
41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT												42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT					
43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS																	
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE												45 RECORDER: DATE MWC: 16.9.1986		46 CHECK: DATE HSR: 1.10.1986			
47 TEXT																	

" NH 7671 2420. Clach an T-Sagairt " (1)

" The Priest's Stone was formerly situated on the N side of Dalarossie Churchyard (2) but was moved into the Church by 1889 (4). It is basin shaped and said to have been used for baptismal purposes (2). It is included in a list of cup-marked stones by Romilly Allen (3). The hole was drilled through the bottom in recent times (2)."

" Clach an T-Sagairt, a baptismal font as described and planned; not a cup-marked stone; still in Dalarossie Church. (OSFI:NKB:8.11.1966) (over

47. "See continuation card for text and plan (2)(4)"  
" See also HNH 72 SE 001A for Dalarossie Church "

## IV. THE PRIEST'S STONE AT DALAROSSIE CHURCHYARD.

On the north side of the old burying-ground round the church of Dalarossie, in Upper Strathdearn, which is watered by the Findhorn, some five or six miles above Findhorn Bridge, over which runs the great road between Inverness and Perth, there exists a curious stone, known as *Clach-an-t-shagairt*, or the Priest's Stone. It is a rounded block of grey gneiss, 27 inches broad and 16 inches thick, shown on fig. 84 with sections, drawn by Mr. Mackay of the Public School near it. It contains a basin 21 inches in diameter, quite circular except on the upper right side, where it extends  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches beyond the true circle, 11 inches deep, and tapering gradually to 2 inches at the bottom. The stone itself is circular, except on one side, where it forms a straight line of  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The breadth of the ring round the basin is 6 inches on the average, except on the same side, where it narrows to less than half this

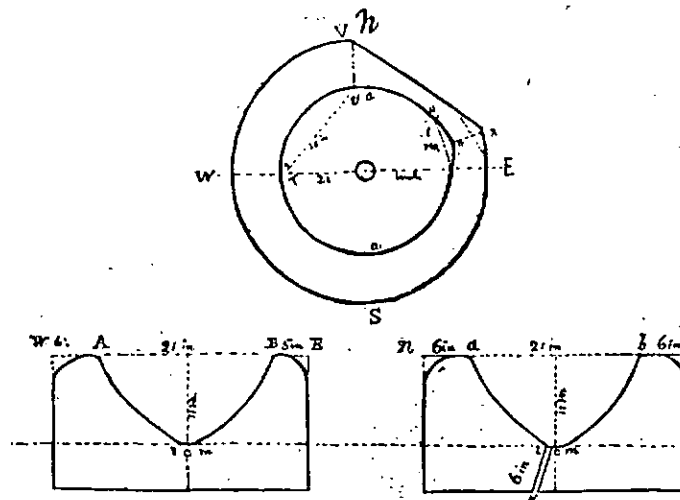


Fig. 84. "The Priest's Stone," Dalarossie. (Plan and Sections.)

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(2)

" There is an old stone font lying at the end of the church. It is 20 inches (0.5m) in diameter inside at the mouth, and about 10 inches (0.25m) deep. It is cut out of a rough block of gneiss. Sometime ago, it is said, an old man, who had a habit of poking his stick into everything, poked it through the bottom of this font. Before then people used to wash their hands in the rain water which collected in the stone to cure or prevent warts. " (4)